(c) the present stage of the proposal for doubling the railway line from Mangalore to Shornur and the amount required for its completion and the probable time of the commencement and completion of the project; and

(d) what are the railway stations in Kerala which do not have even another line in the station for crossing of trains and the period within which this problem would be rectified with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The doubling of railway line between Quilon-Trivandrum (65 Kms.) has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 81.23 crores. An outlay of Rs. 1,000 has been provided during 1993-94. Time of completion has not been fixed. Pending completion of Kayanakulam-Quilon section which is in progress on priority basis, and completion of land acquisition proceedings between Quilon-Trivandrum.

(b) This will be decided after the estimates of Quilon-Trivandrum are sanctioned.

(c) The survey for doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore has been taken up. Further action will depend on results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

(d) There are 20 flag stations in Kerala with single line. Second line for crossing of trains is provided depending on traffic requirement and justification from time to time.

Performance of South Eastern Railways

1278. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of South Eastern Railway in handling goods traffic and thereby generating revenue has improved considerably as compared to other zones;

(b) if so, the reasons for not performing well in handling goods traffic by other zones;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to develop the rail network and other facilities in South Eastern Railway in view of its economic performance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the Railways have lifted goods traffic as per offer from different sectors of economy. Goods loading on South Eastern Railway has been maximum due to heavy demand from the core sectors concentrated on this Railway.

(c) and (d) A number of transport capacity augmentation and development projects involving an investment of more than Rs. 1600 crores are in progress on South Eastern Railway.

Malpractice in Finalising and Awarding Contracts in South Central Railway

1279. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any complaints against malpractices in finalising and awarding contracts in South Central Railways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints pertain to different wings of South Central Railway wherein irregularities in processing of tenders, acceptance of high rates, favouratism to contractors, etc. have been alleged.

(c) whenever such complaints are received, investigations are conducted by Railway Vigilance not only to identify the delinquent Railway officials for the misconduct but also to see that there are no loopholes leading to malpractices in the system of finalising and awarding of contracts.

Based on the results of the investigations, appropriate disciplinary action is taken against delinquent Railway officials in consultation with CVC besides taking corrective measures to plug the loopholes, if any.

Disposal of Surplus Land of Railways

1280. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway is demanding for the market price of the surplus land of Railways in Surendranagar and Jamnagar districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that princely States of Gujarat have given free land to Railways in Surendranagar and Jamnagar district at that time;

(c) whether the Railways propose to agree to part with the surplus land in both these places by nominal price;

(d) by when Government of India would solve this long pending problem;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is a clause in the Agreement when the land was allotted to Railways by princely State that Railways cannot dispose of this land; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that whenever Railways dispose of the land, first preference should be given to the party concerned which has given the land to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Records in this regard are not readily available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) This depends on the State Government's willingness to take over the lands, to the extent surplus to Railways' requirements, at current market value as per extent rules.

(e) Records in this regard are not readily available.

(f) There is provision for return of the surplus land to the original owners or their legal heirs only in case of agricultural and pastoral lands.

Construction of a Railway Over Bridge in Tamil Nadu

1281. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the pressing necessity of constructing a over bridge at the level crossing near Aringlem on Perambalur-Aringalem Highway in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, by when the construction would begin; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) of the question be in the negative, whether Government would undertaken the scheme in view of the long pending demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways consider construction of road over bridges in replacement of those level crossings for which proposals are sponsored by the concerned State Government/Local Authority, agreeing to bear their share of cost for such works as per rules.

सहायक इंजीनियरों के सीनियर स्केल में पदोन्नति के नियम

1282. **श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे विभाग में कार्यरत सहायक इंजीनियरों को सीनियर स्केल पर पदोन्नति देने के नियम अलग-अलग जोन में अलग है यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में सरकार को कोई प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं कि ग्रुप "ए" सहायक इंजीनियरों और ग्रुप "बी" सहायक इंजीनियरों की पदोन्नति में भेदभाव किया जा रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो केन्द्र सरकार ने अब तक इस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है; और

(घ) यदि प्राप्त नहीं हुए हैं तो क्या केन्द्र सरकार ऐसे आदेश जारी करने का विचार रखती है कि केवल वरिष्ठता के आधार पर ही सहायक इंजीनियरों में से पदोन्नति की जायेगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) जी हां ।

(ग) और (घ) सभी वरिष्ठ वेतनमान पद ग्रुप "ए" में हैं तथा पात्र ग्रुप "ए"/कनिष्ठ वेतनमान के अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति द्वारा भरे जाते हैं और पात्र ग्रुप "ए"/कनिष्ठ वेतनमान के अधिकारी उपलब्ध न होने पर अपेक्षित वर्षों की सेवा पूरी कर लेने वाले ग्रुप "बी" के अधिकारियों की तदर्थ आधार पर वरिष्ठ वेतनमान में पदोन्नति करने के बारे में विचार किया जाता है । मौजूद नीति में कोई परिवर्तन करना आवश्यक नहीं समझा जाता है ।

Introduction of a Rajdhani Express to Assam

1283. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the reasons for not introducing a Rajdhani Express to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): It is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Privatisation of Palace on Wheels

1284. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: